

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
POLLUTION REPORT**

Date: Wednesday, February 02, 2005

From: John Martin

Subject:

Final POLREP
Viking Tank Battery Well 31
1 mile west of I 45 on S H 6, Hitchcock, TX
Latitude: 29.3344320
Longitude: -94.9564640

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	1245
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	
Start Date:	1/10/2005	Response Authority:	OPA
Mob Date:	1/4/2005	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:	1/12/2005	NPL Status:	
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:		Reimbursable Account #	
FPN#	E05664		

Site Description

The Viking Tank Battery Site (Maco Stewart Lease, Well 31, RRC #150913) is comprised of two corroded storage tanks and one corroded gun barrel. The Site is located just north of Galveston Island and south of Hitchcock, Texas, between Interstate 45 to the east and State Highway 6 to the west. The area is populated by residential housing adjacent to the marsh areas and Highland Bayou. There were about 250 -350 barrels of oil released from the abandoned production facility into a marshy area immediately adjacent to the Highland Bayou which is tributary to the Gulf of Mexico. Apparently, the water-leg of the gun barrel fell off with an open valve thereby releasing its contents. At this time the Viking Resources Inc appears to be a defunct company and was the last lease operator of record.

The Viking Tank Battery Site is a component of the Highland Bayou Oil Spill. The two names just differentiate the two federal agencies (two FPNs) who implemented response actions for the oil release: the USCG implemented the water-based response (Highland Bayou Oil Spill) and the EPA implemented the land-based actions (Viking Tank Battery.)

On December 18, 2004, the subject spill was reported to the Tx General Land Office (GLO) who approached the USCG in Galveston. The USCG opened an FPN and issued a PRFA to the GLO to address the free floating oil that entered or endangered waters of the United States. The Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) had removed approximately 70 BBL of oil remaining in the subject oil facility deteriorating tanks. Subsequently, the USCG Galveston discovered that the facility is located immediately inside the EPA geographic zone of responsibility (per Inter-Agency MOU negotiated historically), and contacted EPA to request that our Agency complete the response

action. OSC Raji Josiam visited the Site on December 27, 2004 to meet with the responders and to gather pertinent Site information. Further discussions with the USCG lead to the agreement that the USCG would continue with the GLO to complete the marsh and water based portion of the overall response and that EPA would address the land based portion.

Current Activities

On January 4, 2005, OSC Martin visited the Site and met with USCG Galveston, GLO, RRC, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife to define EPA's scope of action. It was agreed that implementing quick corrective measures for the tank battery and surrounding oil-contaminated soils (inside the berm area and an immediately adjacent marshy area) would be cost effective, beneficial, and consistent with the overall response activities being conducted by the USCG Galveston and GLO for the Highland Bayou Oil Spill. OSC Martin opened a separate FPN for the Viking Tank Battery and then issued a PRFA to the RRC to conduct the land based cleanup.

On January 10, 2005, the RRC and its subcontractor, T&L Lease Service, mobilized to the site. They removed the three tanks and their associated piping, consolidated the adjacent contaminated soils within the berm area, and tilled the berm area for insitu-land farming. Also, the RRC took five confirmation soil samples: one @ 3 feet under the tank area, two in the excavated marshy area, and two within the berm area. They completed all the onsite work and demobilized on January 12.

Next Steps

None expected. The oil well that supplied the tank battery is pressurized but intact. The RRC will address the oil well under its state authority at a later date. However, the water base portion of the response (Highland Bayou Oil Spill) is in a monitoring phase to contain and collect all the remaining oil that migrates out of the marsh area. If the Site conditions change, further assessment and removal activities may be necessary.

www.epaosc.org/vikingwellbattery